

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SCCT-02

SAB-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 NEAE-00 /135 W

----- 000567

O R 081214Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2098

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2049

GENEVA FOR

MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: THE SEARCH FOR AN ELEGANT SOLUTION

REF: TEL AVIV 2030

1. UNDER INTENSE TIME PRESSURE, THE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP OVER PASSOVER WEEKEND SOUGHT A SOLUTION TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS WHICH COULD FORESTALL A SPLIT OF LABOR PARTY AND/OR A NEW ELECTION. MRS MEIR IS MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTERS THIS AFTERNOON, AND THEREAFTER ENTIRE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP AND KNESSET FACTION WILL CONVENE AT 6 PM THIS EVENING IN TEL AVIV. MAIN EVENTS OVER WEEKEN, BASED ON VARIET OF SOURCES, WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. AT APRIL 5 MEETING ARRANGED UPON DAYAN'S REQUEST, DAYAN ASKED MRS MEIR SAME QUESTION WHICH HE HAD ASKED TWICE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WAR: DOES SHE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM AS DEFENSE MINISTER OR DOES SHE WANT HIM TO RESIGN? UNLIKE  
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PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. MRS MEIR HEDGED THIS TIME, TELLING HIM

THAT DECISION WOULD DEPEND UPON OUTCOME OF PARTY CONSULTATIONS.

3. HAIFA MAYOR ALMOGI, WHO ALREADY DURING FEBRUARY -MARCH CRISIS HAD ASSUMED MEDIATING ROLE, CARRIED OUT SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS OVER WEEKEND WITH DAYAN AND WITH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TO SEEK, IN WORDS OF LABOR PARTY BACKBENCHERS, " AN ELEGANT SOLUTION" WHICH WOULD AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME REMOVE DAYAN FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY (THIS IS CLEARLY THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ENTIRE ANTI-DAYAN MOVEMENT), KEEP THE PARTY INTACT AND AVOID GOING TO THE ELECTORATE. DAYAN TOLD ALMOGI THAT HE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO A "SOLUTION" BY WHICH THE ENTIRE GOVT WOULD RESIGN, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING THAT IT HAD ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, MRS MEIR WOULD FORM A NEW GOVT WITH RESHUFFLE OF CURRENT MEMBERS AND DAYAN WOULD TAKE OVER ANOTHER PORTFOLIO.

4. DAYAN HAS EXPLICITLY DISCLAIMED INTEREST IN TAKING OVER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT A NEW MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASPECTS OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPERVISION OVER THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO DAYAN, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT WOULD SATISFY HIS OPPONENTS IN MAPAI AND AHDUT AVODAH. THE POTENTIAL LOSER IN A RESHUFFLE WOULD SEEM TO BE EBAN WHOSE INTERESTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN ASSIDUOUSLY PROTECTED BY SAPIR. OF ALL THE MAIN PARTICIPANTS, SAPIR CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN LOWEST PUBLIC PROFILE, WHILE CLEARLY PLAYING KEY ROLE BEHIND THE SCENES.

5. WHETHER CABINET RESHUFFLE CAN WORK IS PROBLEMATIC. IT WOULD REQUIRE NOT ONLY THE CONSENT OF ALL FACTIONS OF THE LABOR PARTY, BUT ALSO OF ITS COALITION PARTNERS. MOST PROBLEMATIC AT THIS JUNCTURE IS THE POSITION OF THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) WHICH IS UNDERGOING ITS OWN INTERNAL CRISIS SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THAT FACING THE LABOR PARTY. THE NRP TODAY HAS RENEWED ITS CALL FOR A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT AND THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT IT WOULD VOTE AGAINST A NEW EDITION OF THE CURRENT TRIPARTITE COALITION IN ORDER TO HEAL ITS WOUNDS.

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6. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT ALL SIGNS SUGGEST THAT DAYAN WILL NOT CONTINUE AS DEFENSE MINISTER. ALL THE REST IS OPEN. WE ARE STRUCK BY DAYAN'S REPORTED RADINESS TO FIND A COMPROMISE SOLUTION, UNDERSCORING TWO OBJECTIVES WHICH HE SEEMS TO HAVE SET FOR HIMSELF: TO AVOID PRECIPITATING A PARTY APLIT AND TO CONTINUE PLAYING A CENTRAL ROLE IN ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. UNPREDICTABLE EXTERNAL FACTORS ALSO MAY INTRUDE

THEMSLEVES. POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT SYRIANS  
WILL TAKE SOME ACTION WHICH AGAIN WOULD LEAD TO "SURPRISE"  
RESOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS, OR AT THE LEAST HAVE  
IMPORTANT BEARING ON ITS OUTCOME.  
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## Message Attributes

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